

The SL Arts and Life Magazine

# reZZ

february 2013

## Acoustic Garden

Pete Mroz  
with Jami Mills

Immersionism vs Extensionism  
by Gudrun Gausman

The Perfect Gentleman  
Harry Bailey

poetry/microfiction/more



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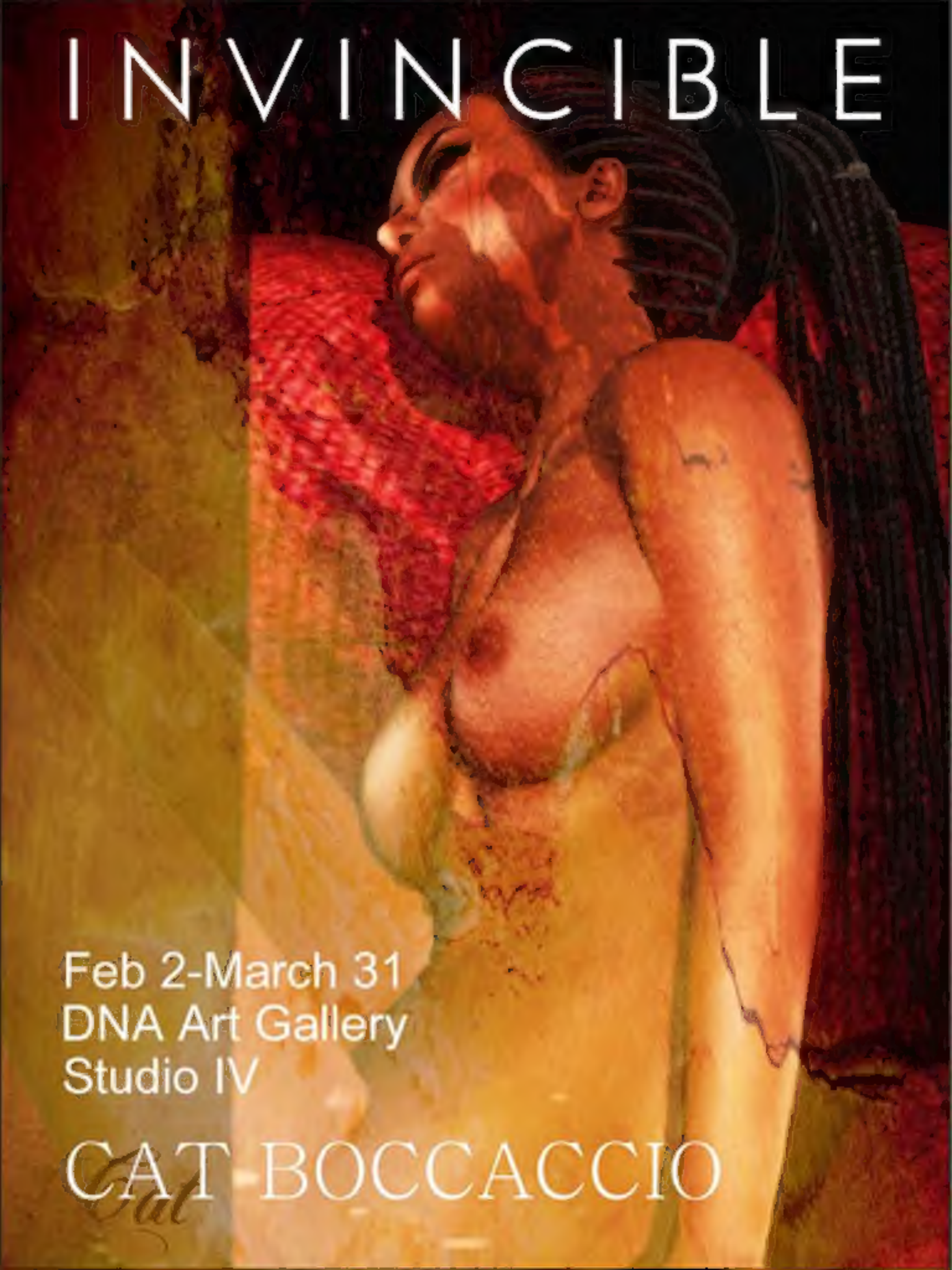
## About the Cover:

Pete Mroz has been performing his beautiful and moving songs in SL for quite some time. Jami Mills captures Pete in his element - performing live at Acoustic Garden





# INVINCIBLE



Feb 2-March 31  
DNA Art Gallery  
Studio IV

CAT BOCCACCIO





## Cat Quest

by Cat Bocca

# STEVIE RAY



tionnaire: NIXX Constantine

accio



## This month, Blues DJ NIXX Constantine dares to answer Cat's 14 leading questions.

**SL age:** 4 Years 5 Months

**SL activity:** Blues DJ, Retired SL Photographer and Graphic Artist.

**RL location:** California

**In-your-on-words bio:** I love being around fun, creative people. Spinning the blues satisfies the extrovert in me, and allows me to share the genre of music I feel most passionate about with others. For many years, SL had been my primary social outlet, and becoming a DJ gave me my Mojo (my confidence and good luck).

### ***1. What in SL has brought you the most happiness?***

I met Licone, my life mate, here. We met in SL, dated for over a year inworld, and partnered. Two years ago she uprooted herself from the South, and moved to be with me in California. We are happy and have a very solid relationship. Were it not for the Blues and SL, we would never have met.

### ***2. What has given you the most sadness?***

I would say the intrinsic nature of the online world. Real life, and sometimes

death in the real world, so often take those who are close. Pain and suffering, specifically in online relationships, caused several close friends to abandon SL and move on. I miss a few of them, they were good friends, and we did not connect outside of SL. I have also lost more than a few friends to RL death, but their memory lives on in my heart.

### ***3. How would you describe your home in SL?***

My home is actually styled after a rooftop blues club. Licone and I have our home position set at the interior, decorated with blues posters. We spend so little time at home, that we don't really even have furniture. It is a place to change clothes, and also to invite our friends over to listen to music and dance. It is not actually an SL club. I hold no events, but I do throw the occasional awesome party.

### ***4. Who in SL do you admire most?***

First on my list is a man I little knew, but was a great inspiration to me as a DJ. Bear Rasmuson was a beloved blues DJ who

shared his incredible wealth of knowledge of the blues and blues history at every show. We lost Bear, a sad blow to the SL blues community. I also have a solid place in my heart for a select few DJs whose style I have borrowed and adapted, as well as the managers and owners of the venues where I have had the honor to play the blues.

***5. What character trait do you have in SL that is furthest from your RL personality?***

I try to be as honest and true to my real self as I can be. There is no intentional separation, and I freely show my RL picture in my profile. If anything, I would say being a DJ has allowed me to exhibit more confidence in SL than I have in my RL past. I feel more myself, in fact, silly as I am, and a royal dork, when I am behind the microphone. I tend to encourage myself to be "Up" and "Happy" for my audiences, even when I am not as chipper as it seems. This of course, always brings up my mood, and my audiences appreciate that quality.





**6. Which character trait did you leave behind in RL?**

I try to avoid drama. I have had too much of it in SL, and so I appreciate those who are calm adults, and I leave my drama out of SL, and do not associate long with those who persist with it.

**7. What is your weakness when it comes to spending your Linden dollars?**

I am actually quite good about my spending. I pay tier, of course, and have the expense for my DJ stream. I guess if I had a vice, it would be obtaining all the cool gizmos for my trade. When I was a SL photographer, I had all the poses and backgrounds and lighting effect doodads. As a DJ, I have group subscribers, a fancy tip jar, a mailing list system and a hud that announces the song information in local chat. But in all, I am able to sell lindens to support my RL income.

**8. What is your favorite place in Second Life, and why?**

The clubs where I DJ. Because of the wonderful friends and family I have met over the years.

**9. What scares you the most in (or about) Second Life?**

I don't really fear anything here. But I would be sad if for some reason SL became inaccessible to me. When computer troubles hit, it is painful to miss shows, and my friends.

**10. What is your secret pleasure in SL?**

I guess it would have to be sneaking into SL as an alt, incognito. It is nice to get away and have no distractions.

**11. What would it take to drive you out of Second Life?**

RL money issues. Also, my health is only fair, and keeps me offline sometimes.

**12. What one word would you use to describe the art community in SL?**

Heterogeneous.

**13. What are you most proud of in SL?**

The following I have here. I have made some great friends, some of whom now extend into RL. I believe my confidence, as well as my craft of creating varied and popular playlists have been chief in attracting such wonderful fans.

**14. If you built a sim from scratch with unlimited resources, what would it be called?**

Nixxy's Bluesville. A fun urban attraction with cultural and historical significance.

*Catch a NIXX set at:*

**Hotlanta Blues Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10 pm SLT.**

**JudyBLUES Mondays at 7 pm SLT.**

**Cay's Oceanside Blues Club Tuesdays at 6 pm SLT.**

*And the blues are always spinning at Nixxy's Rooftop Blues Bar.*







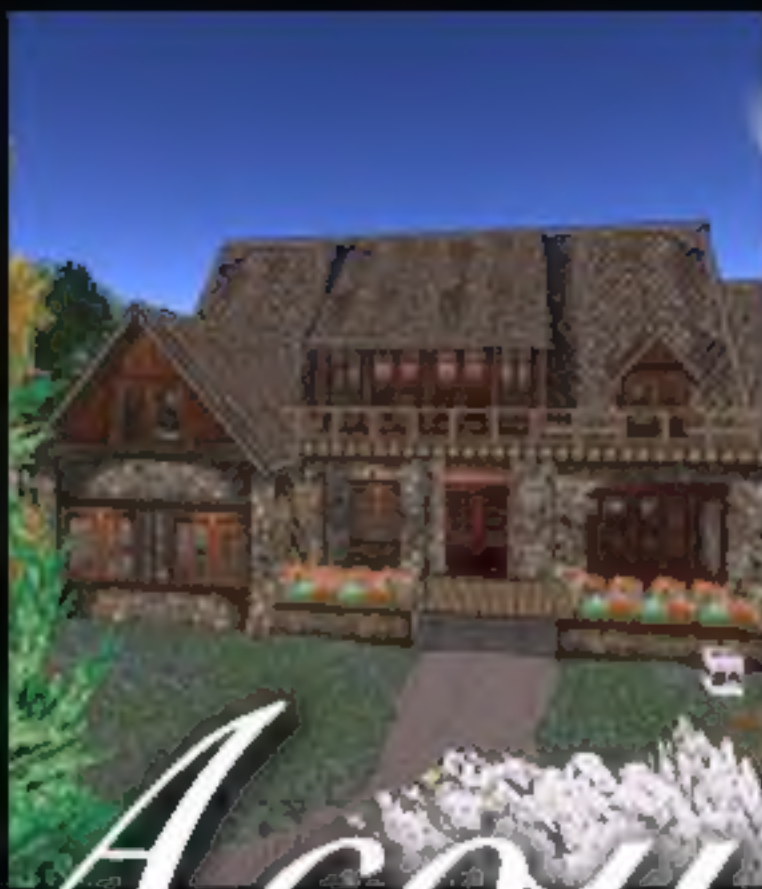
The art of the feminine

SYNergy



<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Healy/180/86/103>





# *Acoustic*

## Beautiful Homes & Skyboxes



<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Excalibur/69/246>





# *Garden* s in a Landscaped Community



Onward and

an Interview

with singer/

songwriter

Pete Mroz

by Juli Mills





Upward!

Pilgrimage  
Swash



Pete Mroz was born a Hoosier. The Indiana historian, Jabob Piatt Dunn, Jr., found that the word "hoosier" originated in England, but it was originally applied in American culture to woodsmen and rough hill people "having an unruly or pugnacious nature." I don't know Pete well enough to comment about his true nature, but I do know what my ears tell me. Maybe his Hoosier background explains why he's drawn to blues and roots music, but there's nothing unruly about his voice or his guitar playing. Pete is gifted with an enviable range, able to "hit the high ones" with purity and precision. And he doesn't tiptoe around a song either - he belts it out. Maybe there is a connection to his Hoosier roots, for you see Pete speaks his heart, openly and honestly. Take it or leave it....up to you. Come to think of it, maybe there is a little pugnaciousness in Pete's singing - in the best sense of the word.

Pete is a prolific singer/songwriter, appearing in SL and real life, wanting nothing more than to get his message out. When talking about his new album (his third), he says, "Honesty is the main thing. I was being honest with myself, and this record shows that. So when someone listens to it, they're gonna hear that. I mean, they're gonna hear Pete. It's me." He

doesn't seem to be much interested in the trappings of fame, but something much simpler and direct. He wants to get through to people. In a way, he wants to have a conversation with us. Well Pete, we're listening and you're gettin' through.

JM: *Thank you, Pete, for taking the time out of your busy weekend to meet with me. I know our readers will appreciate it just as much as I do. Let's jump right into it.*

*Others have commented on the honesty of your music, and surely that comes straight through. But I'd also like to draw attention to the sensitivity of your approach, both vocally and instrumentally. People often say "less is more," with the spaces between sounds sometimes being as important as the notes themselves, if not more so. I was struck by your sparse and moving arrangement of the Christmas carol, "Oh Holy Night," based upon the French poem "Minuit, Chretiens" (Midnight, Christians). Regardless of one's religious affiliation (or lack thereof), there is something especially moving about Christmas carols that never fails to bring me to tears. When the song requires, your choirboy-like voice hits the high notes with an understated purity, backed by simple, tasteful guitar work. Have you covered any other Christmas carols? (As my high school English teacher would say, "and if*





*not, why not?") It seems like such a good fit for you.*

PM: I was born in 1975 which makes my musical taste broad. I grew up listening to country music, rock 'n roll, bad eighties, classical, and Christian music in my teens. I never gravitated to hard rock, metal or distorted sounds, but the opposite ... very clean, clear sounds. Probably why I gravitate towards Paul McCartney versus John Lennon. As far as Christmas carols go, I was raised in church through my teenage years and learned a lot of hymns and carols through those years.

I have always been attracted to clear, clean and precise music with soul. As for releasing any more Christmas songs, well ... never say never!

JM: You don't seem like one to back away from musical challenges. In fact, I would say you appear to relish them. There couldn't be a better example than your willingness to cover Paul Simon's (and Joseph Shambala's) "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes." I'm sure many musicians would say, "no thanks...I'm not crazy," but you dove right in and made it your own with stunning effect. Tell us about your process of choosing material and, although it's not completely on

point, please let our readers know a little bit about filming the music video in Nashville. (Please visit Pete's website, [petemroz.com](http://petemroz.com), to see this charming video.)

PM: I pick songs that I love versus songs that are current Top 40. Recently I have been singing a couple Top 40 songs because I was getting ready for *The Voice* auditions. Didn't make it, but it was really fun going for it! As far as what songs I do, they usually are songs that are in my range, like Paul McCartney/Paul Simon (both of those legends have ranges in their voice I only dream

of!) or songs that are good stories with beautiful melodies! I heard Eric Clapton say if he can't add anything to a song he won't cover it, so I have adopted that philosophy a bit.

"*Diamonds*" has always been a favorite song of mine because of the lyrics. They seem to confuse some people as to their meaning, which is why I love the song. Causes the listener to listen and everyone hears something different, so I tried to put my spin on it. I usually don't try to learn a song note for note ... I look up the chords and I have an idea what the melody is so I go for it and that's what you hear.

A lot of people don't know that I love to shoot video. I live a double life - - one as a singer/songwriter and one as a novice video maker. It started with photography years ago and when I realized I needed content on the web for my music promotion, I thought "I can learn how to do that!" Fast forward three years and I have a small company called Lucky 55 Productions, where I shoot and edit videos for

people. It allows me to be creative. Now back to the "*Diamonds*" video :- ) I live in Nashville and love this city, and I had the idea of telling a love story with the characters being the shoes of a boy and a girl. I asked my friend Stephanie if she would volunteer to be the girl and I was the boy. I shot that on an early Sunday morning in downtown Nashville and some footage on Broadway on a Saturday. It was really fun and exciting to make.

JM: *At a recent performance at the in-world venue, Acoustic Garden, I was especially heartened by one thing: you were regularly tuning your guitar. While some musicians wouldn't want the distraction, and others simply wouldn't care, you took the time to tune up again and again. In fact, you told your audi-*





ence, "The least I can do is tune my guitar." As we have often mentioned in this magazine, playing in tune is a sign of respect. From the mirror-like finish on your guitar, to the precision of your vocals, to the crispness of your fingering, you bring a meticulous quality to your performances, and it shows. And the audience notices. Tell us more about this craftsmanship and attention to detail. Where did it come from?

PM: As a kid I loved putting together tiny models and I learned very early on that the detail is where it is!! You should see my car!! LOL I am a bit of a neat freak. My house isn't spotless, but pretty clean for a dude. This is reflected in all the things I do, so with my music, the one thing I always try to remember is to tune my guitar because I hate an out of tune one. If my guitar is in tune, my voice can be. I want to enjoy the music too when I am playing. One of my greatest music heroes is Eric Clapton and over the years I have realized it's because he has soul and is clean, clear and precise!

JM: Blues tunes dominated some of the recent inworld performances I've had the pleasure of enjoying. You cite Robert Johnson as an early influence (what self-respecting bluesman wouldn't?). I particularly enjoyed your inworld rendition of "Ain't Nobody's Business What I Do," but you also have a really fun song called

"Peaches and Cream" on your website that you recorded live at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville. It seems to me that a lot of lesser musicians like the blues because it's so forgiving, in terms of singing in tune and hitting the notes. You don't



have that rough and tumble, whiskey and cigarettes voice, but you can get down with the best of them. What is it about the blues that speaks to you?

PM: The blues are very sacred to me .. the story of where the blues began is a HUGE blemish on American history. I identify with the longing, the machismo, humbleness, in your face, spirit, etc. of this music in a way that I can't explain other than, 'I just do!' I just recently started a band with some local

Nashville musicians where we are going to be playing shows in Nashville. We are gonna play all the greats like Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Albert King, Big Maceo, Howlin Wolf, Lowell Fulson and the list goes on. As for "Peaches and Cream," I wrote that 10 years ago and still love playing that song to this day! It reminds me of an old Leroy Carr song. Maybe someday I will make a blues record! :-)

JM: *To underscore your versatility, the minute someone tries to pigeonhole you as a bluesman, you break into a classic rock cover. At the Acoustic Garden, you took an old blues tune "Outside Woman Blues," but treated us to the Cream version from Disraeli Gears. Then you launched into a rousing version of Elton John's "Rocket Man," followed by a seldom covered Beatles tune, "Across the Universe." You love mixing up genres, don't you?*

PM: Have to mix it up and that is what is great about Second Life live shows for me. I can do that ... jump around genres without ridicule. In 'RL,' people want to label you as a bluesman, adult contemporary, singer/songwriter, etc. They have a hard time hearing you sing just "good music." SL is a blessing for me in many ways, but one that is very rewarding to me.

JM: *A little while ago, you teamed up*

*with the talented cellist, Eleanor Dubinsky, at the Rockwood Music Hall in New York City. Her accompaniment seemed particularly complementary to your style. Do you often perform with other musicians in real life? Have you done any dual-streaming in SL? Am I mistaken, or didn't your manager, Lizzy Nightfire, say you teamed up with Twin Ghost (see my interview with Twin Ghost in rez's November 2012 issue) for a RL performance in Philly?*

PM: Eleanor Dubinsky is awesome and I love that girl. She is a dear friend that I met at a music conference a couple of years ago. She gave me one of her records and I instantly was taken by her sound, so I ask her if she wanted to do some shows and she agreed. Hopefully, we will do more in the future. Also Twin Ghost has become a bud of mine. Talk about





soul ... that dude has it. "Who's your baby bubba?": ) I hope to make music with as many people as I can, but unfortunately life tends to get in the way, but ... we will see. Not big on the dual stream because of the way it is set up, where only one of the two musicians hears what is going on ... One day it will be seamless without latency issues or hiccups.

JM: *On the home page of your website, you're surrounded by 16 Martin guitars. I understand that you have recently been endorsed by the Martin company, which is quite an honor (I play a Martin HD28 myself). But I've noticed you playing a beautiful Taylor guitar in some of your videos. Do you have a favorite guitar?*

PM: Taylor makes a wonderful guitar and those guitars are from when I was

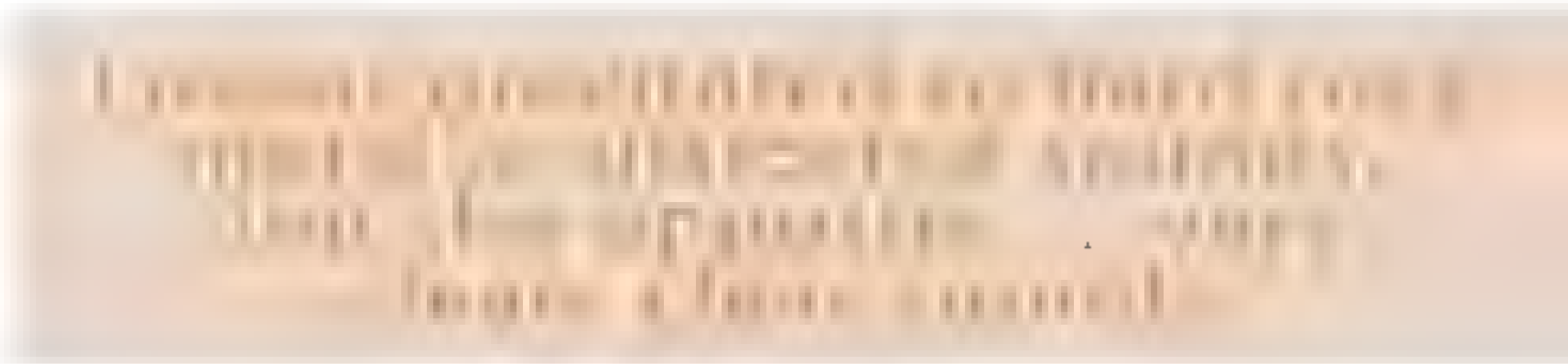


endorsed by them. I recently moved to Martin not because Taylor is bad, but I just love the entire Martin story, where they are made, the folks there, and the sound that comes from a Martin sounds like ... a Martin. All my heroes play them, so why wouldn't I?!

JM: You've recorded three albums now, the last being "We'll Rise Above," which was funded by your fans through Kickstarter and produced by Warren Huart. You performed one of my favorite songs

*This is such a beautiful love song, yet your music sometimes speaks of heart-break too, and themes of overcoming pain and emerging stronger. That ties in very neatly with the title of the album, "We'll Rise Above." Is that part of your philosophy? Live, love and learn, but most of all, rise above?*

PM: Thank you for the kind words ... that song is about when I was 16 and ran away with my first love. "Live, love and learn, but most of all, rise above"



from the album, "American Fable," at a recent concert at another wonderful SL venue, Key West.

*We looked our fears in the eye  
But they gave no reply  
So we took a look around  
To see what we found  
Time slips away  
Time moves on day by day  
Without your love  
Without your love  
Your love  
Where would I be?*

that is totally my hope and practice ... rise above ... Doesn't mean I always do,





but I try to keep that thought at the forefront. Now when we all get together and rise above collectively, now that's some cool juju!!

JM: *You may have been born in Indiana, but you have lived all over this great country of ours, raised in some 13 different states. That gives you a unique perspective on this country. And even now, you tour it from coast to coast. What does the road teach that can't be learned living in a single place?*

PM: Variety of people and cultures ... the common theme is we all want to love and be loved. I relish the road because I get to meet such interesting people and share my music. I feel like I am contributing in some way ... the same way music helps me.

JM: *You perform in real life as well as SL. How do you compare the experiences, in terms of the rapport with your*

*audience that is so important for a performer? How do your performances in SL support your music career in real life, or are you just havin' some fun connecting with people here inworld?*

PM: SL shows have really helped me get my RL shows down. The rapport with online viewers is real just delayed by 6 seconds! :-) Amazing how the brain adapts! My SL fans have lifted me up and I am so grateful for them. And actually the 'linden love' that people show me helps me get out and play RL gigs ... it is truly a blessing!

JM: *Our readers have a voracious appetite for technical information about your sound. If you would, walk us through your equipment - - guitars, mics, outboard gear, etc. And don't be shy about getting into model numbers and specifications.*

PM: HAHA! Okay. I won't geek out





too much here. I am a Mac guy, so I run an audio recording software program called *Logic* with several compressors and EQs with basic reverb. I use two mics, one for my guitar and one for vocals. For me, this is the only way to go and really gives the listener a nice experience (like tuning my guitar) and I play two different Martins which are both 000-28s - - one is a 000-28EC Eric Clapton Model named "*Olivia*" and the other is a 000-28PM with a 1930s Tobacco Finish that was custom made for me. I couldn't believe they painted it like that for me. That guitar's name is "*Lucky*." My onboard pickups are *Fishman Matrix* and I use *Fishman Aura Spectrum* to hone in my RL live sound with a *Fishman Performer* amp. Techy enough?! :-)

JM: I love when you talk dirty. Pete, I can't thank you enough for this wonder-

ful interview and the opportunity you've given me to peek into your musical world. I'd like our readers to know how to contact you ([petemroz.com](http://petemroz.com)) and I urge each and every one of them to keep a lookout for your upcoming SL performances and, if you're in their town, perhaps even a live set. Before we sign off, is there anything else you'd like to share with our readers?

PM: Thank you for asking me these questions ... and thank you to the readers for reading. SL has been very good to me and I look forward to seeing you at a show or seeing you in RL at a gig somewhere!! I try to update my website with where I will be, so check in or go to my Facebook page and we can be 'friends'!!

*Onward and upward!*

· r · c — z ·





A person with long, dark, wavy hair is shown from the back, looking over their shoulder. They are wearing a small, dark, patterned object on their back. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a body of water and a distant shoreline.

# Cat's Beach Gallery

Cat Boccaccio

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Zebrine%20Island/94/30/22>

photograph

jami mills



y





XAN SHOUTcast Radio  
Sets Your Land Music URL

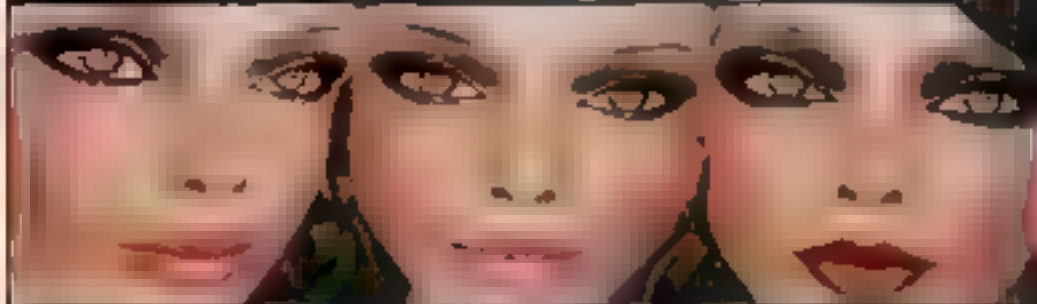
# *Acoustic*

Shopping and

<http://maps.secondlife.com/secondlife/Horsa/50/45/87>



Steal The Spotlight!



KRB Skins and Things

ChiChickie!

Hair Salon

Piazza

Entertainment



# Immersionist



VS.



# Extinctionist

by Gudrun Gausman



# What's Your Issue?

a monthly advice column by  
**Gudrun Gausman**

Dear Gudrun -

My spouse recently realized that I do on-line role play. This is basically where you assume a persona online and chat with others for fun. What bothers him is the somewhat sexual (i.e., "dating") nature of some of the role play that he knows exists.

He confronted me about it the other night, and I told him what I do. He had gotten snoopy because he noticed that when he came into the room I often minimized my window. We talked about it and I told him that he shouldn't be bothered by it because I'm not myself when I'm role-playing, and that it doesn't have anything to do with real life. I have invited him to join me, but he is not interested.

I understand what he is saying, and I am growing conflicted. I wonder if I'm viewing it wrong. People read romance novels and things like Fifty Shades. Reading those books is entertaining but they don't pertain to real life. I don't feel unfulfilled in my marriage. I love my husband very much. But I also like to conjure an attractive persona (not that

my RL persona is not) and attract attention.

Hopefully,  
Honesty Sexkitten

Dear Honesty:

In all honesty, Honesty, you might want to change your name... at least the second part...

If you're speaking of Second Life, the key is how you choose to live it. In your case, you're happy with your real life. You're not looking for a new life, just escape. Therefore, define your limits and don't go beyond them. If you partner in SL in any way, choose someone with similar needs and a similar value system... someone who doesn't want to change their RL, and someone who can meet and entertain your RL mate, should the need arise.

Immersion in a make-believe world is a means of escaping our responsibilities and concerns, as an antidote to the everyday work and worry of our advanced society.

The propensity to absorb oneself in make believe originates in childhood, when a simple prop could make one a princess, a movie star, a soldier, a hero or a villain. As adults we immerse ourselves in music, books, storytelling, movies, television, or structured games, and each of these pursuits requires progressively less imagination. But once upon a time, radio listeners had their imaginations augmented by funda-

definition of a game. They can't be won or lost and have no end state. But they are fun and addictive. They are truly virtual worlds in which we can actually live an alternate life.

Early computer gamers indulged their fantasies in text-based games while mastering clearly defined environments. But technology advanced, reality caught up with fiction, and people

Now, in the computer age, the tools of immersion have become powerful and complex.

mental sound effects created by plungers, tom-toms, rain boxes, canvas, silk, tin cans, rubber balloons, pillows, cellophane, and bottles. Then movies and television presented us with complete pictures of stories, at first amateurish, but later technically sophisticated. Now, in the computer age, the "tools" of immersion have become powerful and complex, simultaneously requiring both less and more imagination to create a truly immersive experience.

Computer games have given us the ability not only to imagine, but to participate in an alternate reality and to actually influence it. But some of these alternate realities no longer fit the

became truly able to "jack in" to a virtual world in an affective and even sensual way. An electronic image can give you an actual presence in a virtual reality that is not truly physical, but is certainly relational and definitely emotional.

Classification schema of game-players abound: One set of classifications might be the achiever, the explorer, the socializer, or the killer. Another might be the role-player, the storyteller, the power-gamer, or the war-gamer. All immerse themselves, but to different degrees and in different ways. How does this relate to Second Life, a "game" in which others as well as one's own self



have a presence?

One type of Second Life “resident” uses SL mainly for extension of his or her real life or RL. These individuals cannot or do not want to differentiate SL from RL - they want to extend their RL into SL. This player mixes SL and RL freely, meeting fellow players for lunch in the real world, possibly engaging in business transactions with them, or dating. There is not much imagination at work or role-playing going on. This can become serious business vs. simple fun and enjoyment.

The extensionist has no real “second life.” This can make her just a little

with different rules. This is the basic intention of role playing games, but it is antithetical to the extensionist idea of what a virtual world could or should be. This can be dangerous to the role player’s very virtual existence. The extensionist does not always understand or accept the kind of separation the real role player requires, and, if the role player’s persona is not sufficiently outrageous and unbelievable, can label it deception and fraud.

To deal with these realities, the role player may hybridize. The hybrid player may seem to be an extensionist, but actually is not. This player has a pseudo-life that may closely resemble

**The extensionist has no real “second life.” This can make her a little threatening....**

threatening to the virtual worlds of others, because she tends to bring RL needs and arguments to it, and tries to enforce RL customs and rules, sometimes diminishing the freedom of others and inhibiting herself as she does so.

A second type of resident is the immersive role-player. For this person, SL and RL are separate – different lives

that player’s real life, differing only in some minor or perhaps some pivotal way. There is no desire or willingness to merge SL with RL. But there is danger here as well, and that is that there is always the possibility of emotional damage to other players whose own imaginations rely upon the truth of the way others represent themselves.

This brings us to Gudrun’s non-mutu-

ally exclusive Second Life Paradigm of Existence in a Virtual World:

Parenthetic markings are intended to differentiate players of differing motivation. All of this, of course, is intended to be confusing. :=P

La raison for participation in SL is some element of personal fulfillment in one or more of these categories. This grows out of the simple desire for an enjoyable experience and the individual pursuit of goals and desires while opposing external interference.

At no time in real life does one person reveal the totality of their personality to another. This is not deception: each one of us knows that there is much going on within us that is not being revealed. One can only express their true desires and feelings to the extent they are compatible with what others are willing to accept. Otherwise, discourse becomes discord, isolation, or worse.

In any life, most of us do not always tell people what we really think of them. Conversely, we may not want to hear from them what they really think of us. We might guess at their true feelings, but really do not care about them except to the extent they affect our relationships. Most everyone participates in this kind of politeness and deference.

In living our second lives, we must keep a firm grip on the fact that the social self that others present to us is not the whole of their personality. As in real life, we mature, and the reactions of others as we present ourselves to them affects our feelings toward ourselves and our self-conception. Of course, we also dynamically mold an image of ourselves for others. In our interactions we "take the role of the other" to evaluate the way we come across in any given situation, and we adjust our behaviors (and perhaps more importantly, the amount of information we divulge about ourselves) accordingly. And we must keep in mind players' differing reasons for participating in a virtual world.

Much of the fun of a virtual world is the illusion. When all illusion is worn away, are you left with something that feels almost like a job? It's probably a bad thing when playing a game makes the player feel annoyed and obligated. Is that what we're here for, LOL?

Hopefully, these remarks will help resolve your conflicts.

Sincerely,  
Gudrun

Note: This analysis was originally presented as an entry in my "Live Your Dream" blog, in February, 2009.  
<http://lvyurdream.blogspot.com/>



# Puss In Boots

## By Crap Mariner



I never understood the story  
Puss In Boots.

I've never seen a cat walking  
around in boots.

However, I've owned a cat that  
pissed on my boots.

Maybe whoever wrote Puss In  
Boots had a cat that pissed on  
their boots, and they rubbed the  
cat's nose in the pissed-on boots  
until the idea came to them for a  
Puss In Boots.

Probably not.

When my cat pissed on my boots,  
I came up with the idea for a boot  
rack in my closet, and closing the  
closet so the cat couldn't get in  
there to piss on them again.

From Fern Follies  
by the Perfect Gentleman  
Harry Bailey





Winter is the most amazing season of the SL year for those of us living our Other Lives in the cold frozen Midwest of the USA. How can we not appreciate escaping the cold dreary dark evenings of flu season as we teleport into another world and our Second Lives?

At the moment, I am working on February's Perfect Gentleman column sitting on the deck of my SL beach home overlooking a lovely warm summer day with the surf pounding in the background. Dolphins leap along the shore and the warm sand calls to me for some swimming or perhaps surfing?

And yes, before you comment, I did write that column last month about the wonders of SL winter sports. I do appreciate what all this amazing technology has to offer us. So much to offer and yet where to begin and who to begin with always seems to be the first obstacle to our adventurous spirits, I believe.

As February begins, I find myself thinking about the question of our Second Lives in the framework of the four major US holidays we celebrate in February - each unique and presenting guidance to help us consider our options.

Are we celebrating Abraham Lincoln's February 12th birthday with our eman-



cipation perhaps? Has our avatar allowed us to move beyond the constraints of that Other Life and concentrate on our bucket list of joys we always wanted to explore "if only" . . .?

A few months back I interviewed Friday Blaisdale to discuss her WWFD avatar outlook. She eloquently enlightened all of us on how her avatar persona had allowed her to grow not only in SL but also in her Other Life outside of SL.

After this article, many people IMed me to share similar experiences. Flor Naghtigal also wrote a most amazing piece sharing the changes in her life that came from her time here in SL. I suspect many of us enjoy the joy of

emancipation from the constraints of our Other Lives. Yes, for myself I do enjoy escaping flu season and freezing temperatures to sit here on my beach deck!

But perhaps your February holiday is more along the lines of George Washington's birthday. One celebrating honesty, truth and hard work to build something important and sustainable. Do you feel the call to build, design, script, have an art gallery perhaps? Have you come into SL to champion a cause such as relay for life or environmentalism perhaps?

I have truly been amazed and impressed at all the great fundraising and education that goes on across SL for many, many wonderful causes. When we see those extra tip jars out for causes, do we hit that pay menu? How about when we visit those great venues someone agonized over for weeks to get just right, do we slip them a few lindens at the end of an evening's or day's enjoyment? I mean, really, how much is \$L500 in RL currency and how much joy do we get from SL?

So, now that you are emancipated and civic minded from Lincoln and Washington, what about those other two holidays. Obviously, Valentine's Day lives across SL for several weeks during February. From the month long hunts for free inventory to the ongoing V Day

balls and dances, romance overflows across the entire grid; however, one critical decision is always at the forefront when VD arrives (Yes, Valentine's Day, get your minds back on track here!) - - who to spend this month of romance beside? Sharing all those hunts with friends perhaps, socializing across the clubs and dance floors of SL to find someone to dance with and appreciate and be appreciated by in return. This is always a most difficult challenge in any life including SL.

Of course, when you do discover that special person, then what do you do for that very special date? Do you really try





to meet them at the top of the Empire State Building or beside the pond in Central Park? [The New Yorker (98, 154, 22)] If so, then it can happen! It exists in SL, of course. Or perhaps a great romantic dinner. The Lobster Claw in Alba Estates [Alba (143, 190, 42)] is a very unique and romantic venue, well hidden in SL, but be warned, it does have a cover charge of \$L100 to dine but hey, it's Valentine's Day! Get a group of romantic friends and share the fun of hiking up the mountain stairs to the restaurant and then dining with your date in a group setting of romantic fun. I mean really it is gourmet food and calorie-free! And whatever you do, don't forget the flowers! Flower's by Sylvie [Mangyeong (132, 55, 119)] has a great selection of VD cards, candy and flowers to make the day special.

Now that we have added to the SL experience with romance and group exploration, we come to the last of our February holidays. Actually, this is the

first holiday of the month, February 2nd - - Groundhog Day. The day America celebrates the halfway point in our winter by focusing our national attention on an overfed rodent and his prediction of just how much longer Winter will last!



Celebrated in the classic movie of the same name, Bill Murray created a character that defines the day, and his character illuminates an aspect of the SL experience. If this is your holiday, then enjoy coming into SL each day, over and over again and again, reliving the experiences in a never-ending loop of self-discovery as you work to perfect yourself.



I challenge each of us to work to perfect ourselves this month, and discover the best in all of us and the fun of exploration. Emancipation, sustainable creation, honesty, romance, or continual self-improvement; what will you search out this month? The PG will be

enjoying the beach and the surf along with his partner, Deb Bailey, here on Starlight Island with perhaps a few dances mixed in?

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The SL Arts and Life Magazine



# Who Is She Looking Through Windows?

by Luna Branwen



She tells me that she's doing fine,  
she's looked through windows square,  
rectangular and round, cross gallery-  
lined streets, exhibits filled with patrons  
buckled,  
pierced, tattooed and fierce; viewing art:  
the hard, the beautiful, the dark and  
light.

Broken glass in metal mesh, framed by  
flaking paint  
beside the soft-lit painting of chiffon-  
robed muse,  
reminds of past times when this room  
likely held that hue,  
that cry remarks of history, the ever-  
present change  
that is, that was, that always will be, she  
thinks,  
"when the lover painted white folds and  
shadows."

Across the street, shadows cast inside  
and out,  
her memory balks,  
looks for the switch to shed light from  
the bare bulb

of her own memory, she tells me, "all is  
well,"

and I believe her, even as she closes up  
her beloved shop  
observes her neighbor's picture window,  
where warm inside a fire gleams; more  
shadows.

The sun is straight up, and this makes  
the light different,

the glass looks almost like it's not there  
makes viewing inside easier, the care-  
fully placed seats

all empty of broken hopes and expecta-  
tions,

the suggestion is to give up, but she  
won't,

she will ever and always, go on, go on,  
go on.

She sees the gallery owner walk across  
the concrete floor,

where he turns off all, but the dimmest  
neon, with a last look at his chiffon-  
robed muse, watches glimmers dance,

and she stares through the window at  
him, with him

at that same robed figure, wondering if  
it could be her

in a previous lifetime, or in a future one.

Editor in Chief  
**Flor Nachtigal**

Art Director  
**Jami Mills**

Production Manager  
**Friday Blaisdale**

Distribution  
**Stacey Rome**

Writers

**Jami Mills**

**Gudrun Gausman**

**Harry Bailey**

**Crap Mariner**

**Luna Branwen**

**Cat Boccaccio**



Editor  
**Friday Blaisdale**

Copy Editors  
**Friday Blaisdale**  
**Jami Mills**

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**Jami Mills**

Photographer  
**Jami Mills**